

OSWER SUMMER INTERNS – PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS – 2015

1 – Name of Project: Advancing the Beneficial Use of Industrial Materials

2 – Project Description:

Background on Project Area:

An important part of the EPA's Sustainable Materials Management program is advancing the environmentally responsible beneficial use of industrial materials. Industrial materials are the byproducts of industrial processes, such as electricity production, metal casting, oil and gas production, and the construction and demolition of buildings, roads, bridges and other infrastructure. Industrial materials include coal combustion residuals (CCR), construction & demolition (C&D) materials, and spent foundry sands. Industrial materials, when recycled or beneficially used in an environmentally sound manner, can result in substantial environmental and economic benefits, including reducing GHG emissions; conserving water, energy, and materials; and saving money through using less-costly materials and reduced disposal costs.

The Industrial Materials Reuse Branch (IMRB) within the Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division (RCSD) is responsible for identifying, analyzing and, when appropriate, implementing regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to industrial materials recycling, including beneficial use and energy production, that contribute to the conservation of resources and protection of human health and the environment. IMRB's current projects focus on ensuring that industrial materials are beneficially used in an environmentally sound manner.

Tasks to be completed by the Intern:

The Intern will provide support as an integral member of the IMRB Team on a variety of ongoing projects. Tasks could include:

- Analyzing, organizing, and incorporating EPA and external EPA stakeholder comments on two key draft industrial materials recycling documents, a framework for evaluating the environmental acceptability of the beneficial use of industrial materials and a study analyzing the environmental acceptability of the beneficial use of C&D Materials in particular;
- Making significant revisions to the Agency's Industrial Materials Recycling web pages to conform to the Agency's new requirements;
- Conducting research focused on estimating the current volumes of industrial non-hazardous materials generated in the United States; and
- Assisting in finalizing and furthering recommendations of EPA's recently published Single-Family Home Life Cycle Analysis, such as researching linkages to related projects within ORCR as well as other EPA program offices (e.g. the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention) and researching existing real estate market efforts to add green building information to data to Multiple Listing Services.

3 – What skills are needed for this project?

Strong technical analysis, organization, and communication skills (written and verbal) and proficiency in Microsoft Office (Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and Word) are required. Experience with Microsoft SharePoint, web page development, social media, and graphic design are all desirable.

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4 – Is travel or training involved? If yes, please provide specifics.
There is no travel involved with this project.